



Aruba's Dande Festival unveils their new logo for 2005

A gathering at the Access Art Gallery in downtown Oranjestad on Friday evening was the occasion for the unveiling of the Dande Festival 2005 logo by the Aruba Dande Organization and the Youth Fever Company. Harrie Croes, Chairman of the Dande Festival that will take place on December 28th expressed the opinion that there will be more bands and vocalists competing than ever before, and it is likely this year's festival, sponsored by the RBTT Bank, will last all through the night.

The new logo interweaves the slogan "Nos Dande, Nos Cultura" with the traditional musical instruments that are used when performing this quintessential island music. Present for the unveiling was the Director of the Instituto di Cultura, Frank Croes, and Aruban musical legend Padu Lampe, co-composer with the deceased Rufo Wever of Aruba's national anthem. Before the actual unveiling of the new logo, attendees were treated to a presentation by Youth in Action dance group of some traditional dance, and Mr. Frank Croes made a brief comment on the importance of the island maintaining its cultural roots and traditions. Dande music is a traditional part of Aruba's New Year celebrations. The word dande (or dandee) is derived from the original Papiamentu word "dandara", which means "parandea: (or to revel; carouse; to have a good time). The celebration of dande began around 1880, after King William III declared the slaves "free men". Some people today still believe that if the dande group does not visit them on New Year's Day, that they will have bad luck during the New Year.